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NEWSFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Monday, January 26, 2004 6:00 a.m.

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SNOW CLOSES DELAWARE OFFICES MONDAY, JAN. 26; ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL ONLY TO REPORT

Public asked to avoid travel due to road conditions

Governor Ruth Ann Minner on Monday morning announced that State of Delaware government offices would be closed for the day due to heavy snow and hazardous road conditions around the state. Essential state employees should report as normal.

"There is at least four inches of snow on the ground in most parts of the state so far, with accumulation forecast to continue through the morning. DelDOT crews are working to keep primary roads and some secondary roads clear as the snow is falling, but they expect that they won't reach back roads in all three counties until this afternoon," Gov. Minner said. "Therefore, we have decided to close state offices for the day and I urge anyone who must travel today to do so with caution."

Gov. Minner said her decision would allow DelDOT crews to get state roads in good shape before a second storm reaches Delaware Monday night with the possibility of ice accumulation.

Delaware Emergency Management Agency Director Jamie Turner said reports from DelDOT and Delaware State Police

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officials in each county and Wilmington indicate road conditions make driving extremely hazardous at this time. The public is advised to avoid all unnecessary travel until roads are clear enough to allow safe travel.

Additionally, all government offices in Sussex County are closed Jan. 26. Again, non-essential employees are ordered to stay home.

State county and City of Wilmington employees are asked to monitor the State of Delaware web site, www.delaware.gov, Closings and Delays sub-page, and listen to local broadcast media for updates.

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